

Making the Most of Water Quality Monitoring Data:

Applications of Water Quality Data Elements

2004 National Monitoring Conference

Chattanooga, TN

May 17, 2004

National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Methods and Data Comparability Board

Water Quality Data Elements Workshop

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May 17, 2004

How did there come to be a “Methods Board”?

1992-- ITFM formed to respond to US OMB challenge to review and evaluate national water quality monitoring activities & develop of recommendations for improvement

1996--ITFM final report, recommending the formation of a permanent Monitoring Council and Methods Board

1992

1996

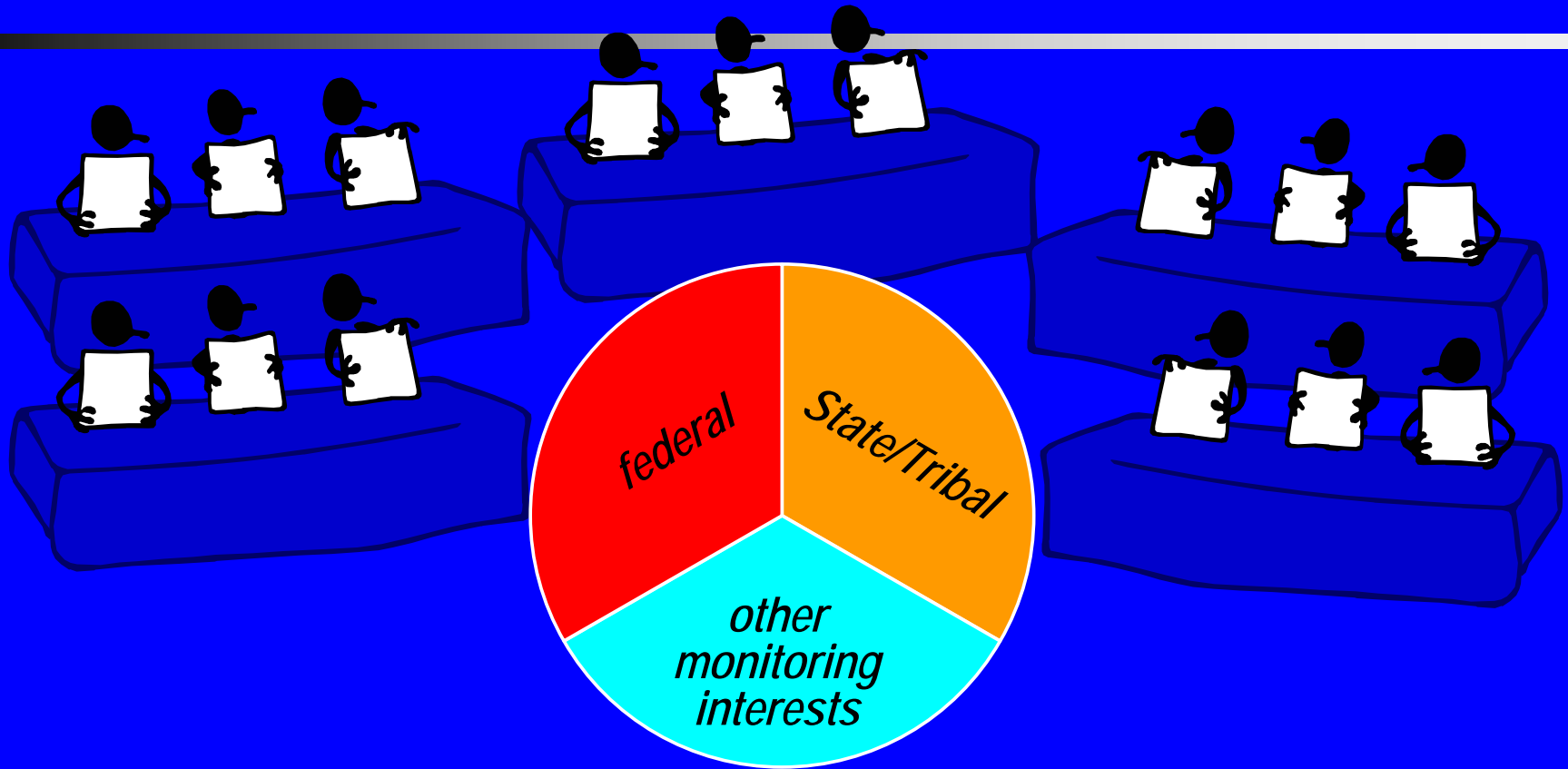
1997

1992--

1997--NWQMC and MDCB chartered under Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) is the parent organization

True collaboration among programs is possible if there is both the technical and the institutional framework to promote data comparability to assure data of known quality

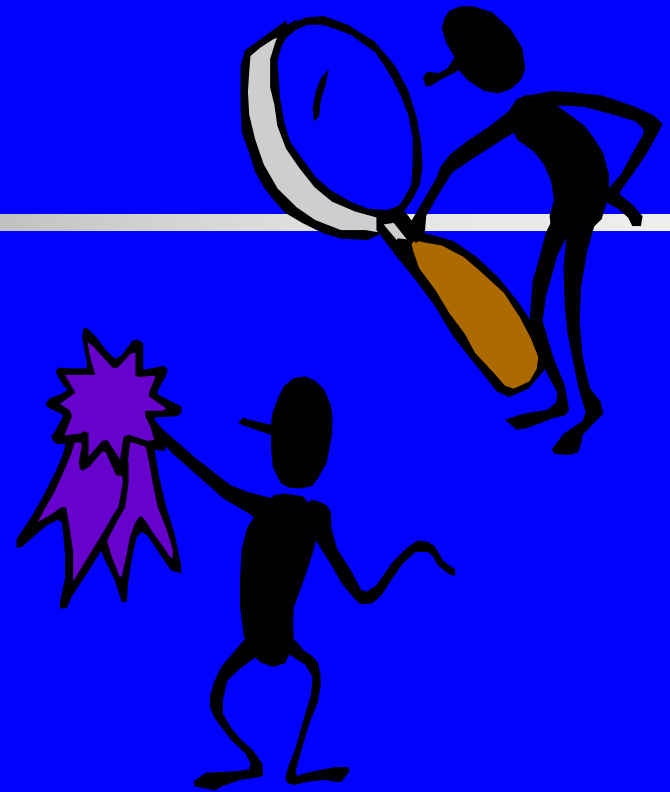
The Board is...



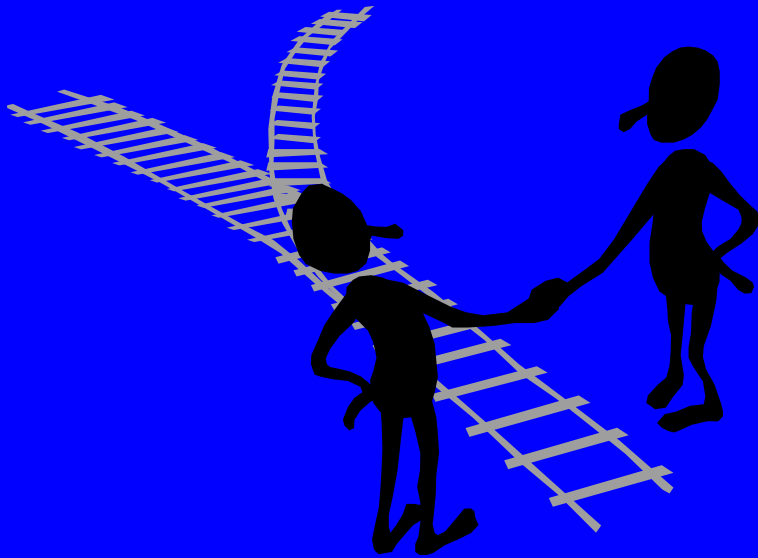
A partnership of water quality experts from federal agencies, States, Tribes, municipalities, industry, and private organizations

Mission of the Board

Create a framework for collaboration and comparability among programs by...

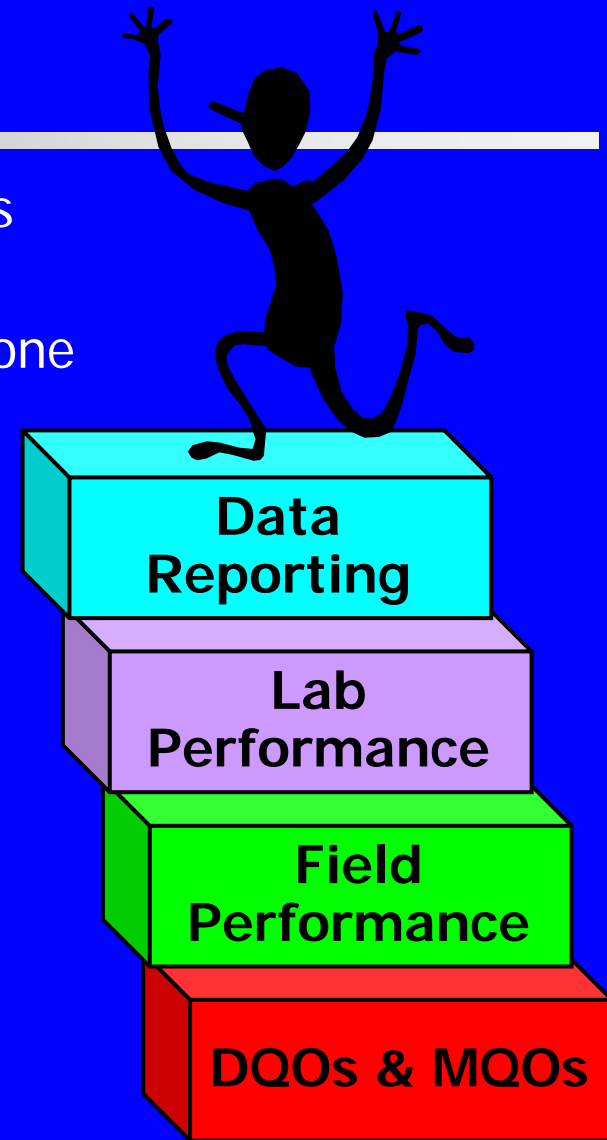
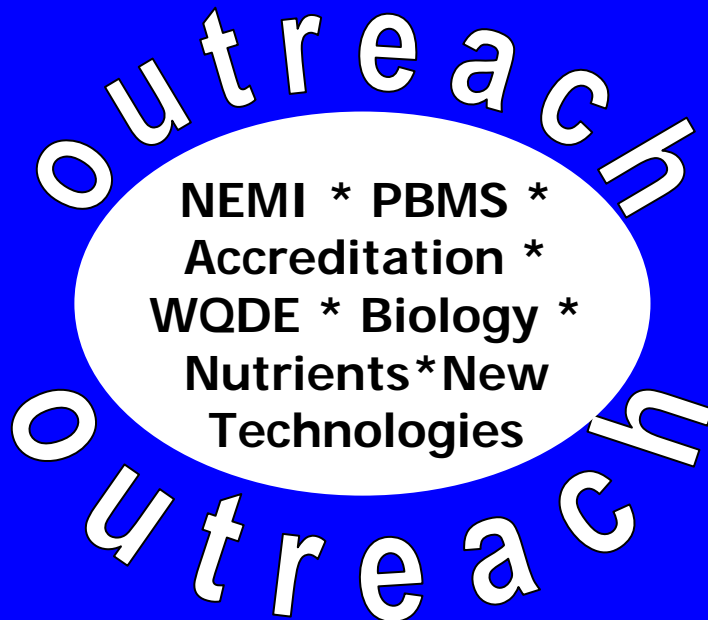


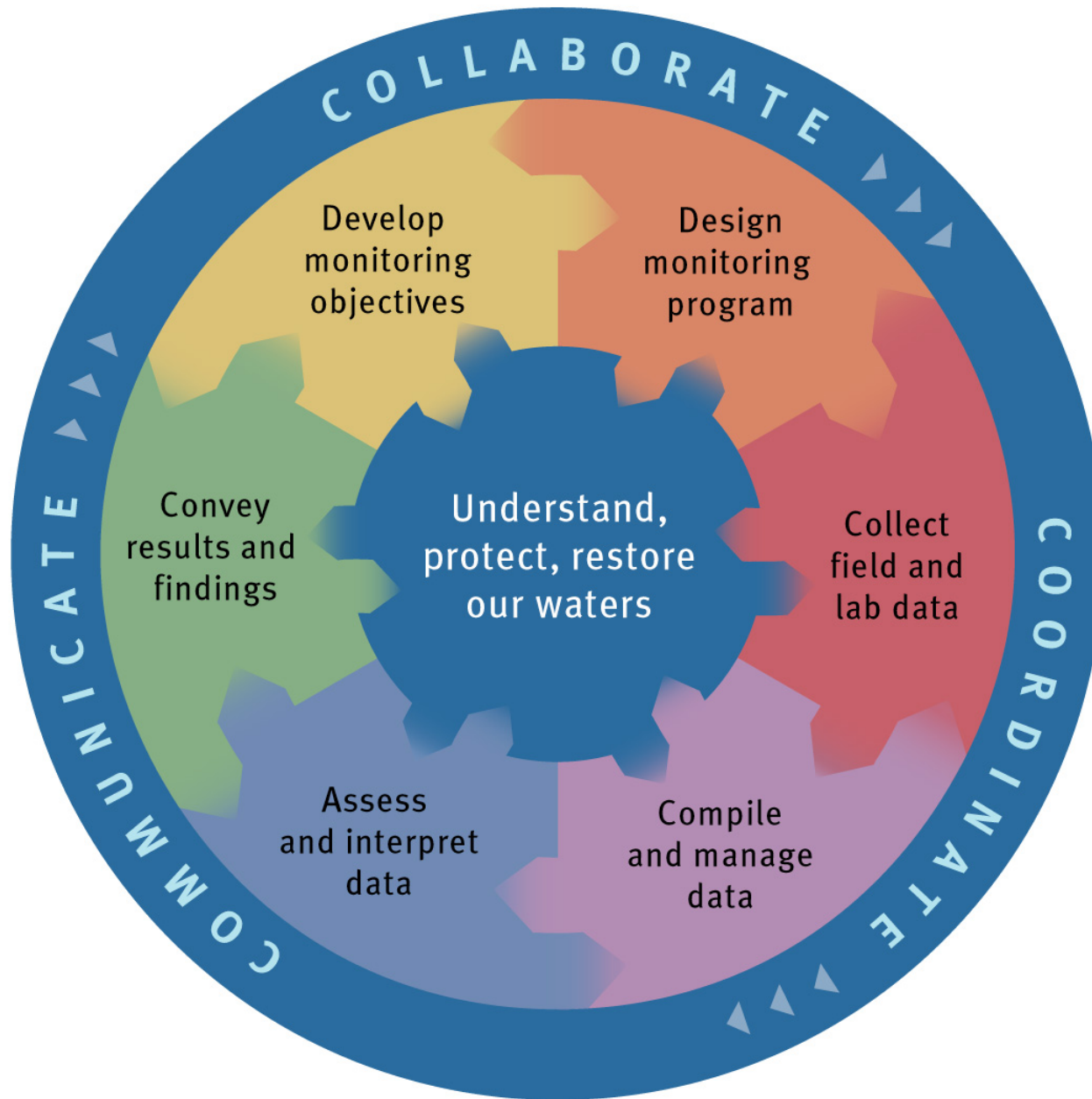
identifying, examining, and recommending monitoring approaches that facilitate collaboration and yield comparable data and assessment results



Getting to comparability

- The 4 elements are the steps or building blocks moving us toward the goal of comparability.
- Each of the Board's workgroups is focused on one or more of these elements or steps
- Effective and innovative outreach is an overarching need for each workgroup

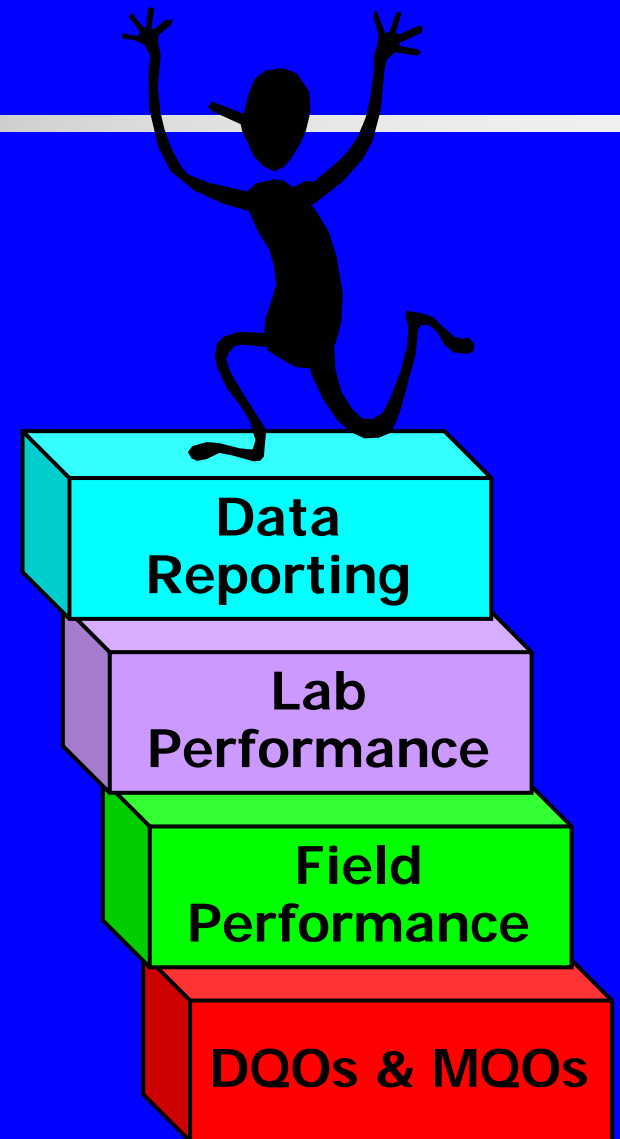




Where are we going and how are we going to get there...

*use the framework and
workgroup structure to...*

develop and deliver products in
the short term while thinking
and planning strategically in
the long term...



Major MDCB Projects

- Water Quality Data Elements
- National Environmental Methods Index (NEMI and NEMI-CBR)
- Performance Based Systems
- Laboratory Accreditation
- Outreach
- Biology
- Nutrients
- New Technologies

